



*“Today when I think of those days spent in Salesian College Siliguri Campus it creates a smile on my face and I happily say to myself – My second home is not so far!!!”*

*– Tony Thomas, 2014 batch of Salesian College, Siliguri*



Entering into December is every year a nostalgic moment. The last month of the year. A sudden sweep of all that happened in the past year and the little time to make good the plans and dreams for the year overwhelms most of all.

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## Dear Alumni

As we are fast approaching the close of 2015, I want to thank each one of you for your love and cooperation with our initiative to constitute our Salesian College Alumni Association in the best possible way.



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**Salesian College Siliguri invites all the Alumni members to Christmas gathering on 18 December, 2015.  
Time – 4:30 PM- 6:00 PM | Venue: College campus**

**More Inside**





# the last month of an **year**

Entering into December is every year a nostalgic moment. The last month of the year. A sudden sweep of all that happened in the past year and the little time to make good the plans and dreams for the year overwhelms most of all. Each year, for that matter each month and day of life is unique. However, summing up the year begins as we enter into December.

As for the Alumni of Salesian College, this summing up of 2015 is a pleasant experience: to recall the gathering of the batch of 2005 coming back for a reunion in Sonada, the formation of the alumni council in Siliguri, the meeting to plan up celebrations for the bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco, the initiation of a full time alumni office, Fr Mathew Pulingathil his vast network of connections with past students of Salesian College offering to lead the office with Ms Priyamrita Chatterjee assisting full time, the monthly production of the e-Newsletter, the Children's programme, the sports events and outreach activities are all speaking of an year that was indeed vibrant.

The experience of being in a Don Bosco College, as lived out by Tony, and beautifully expressed in this issue sums up the spirit of Salesian College Alumni. To feel and know, that one can be connected with a precious part of one's past as equally alive and active in the present as well, is what the Salesian Alumni network seeks to offer.

May the season of Christmas following upon the festival of the Lights illumine all of us to turn our world and our lives into fragrant offerings as Deepika reminds us.

Yours affectionately,  
Fr George Thadathil



Dear Friends, (Alumni),

As we are fast approaching the close of 2015, I want to thank each one of you for your love and cooperation with our initiative to constitute our Salesian College Alumni Association in the best possible way. There have been many who have come forward with great enthusiasm and generosity to take forward this association in both the campuses - Sonada and Siliguri. God is with us. Don Bosco gazes upon us with a celestial smile. As we draw closer to the end of this year, I would like to present a few questions:

If you were to pick the most precious gift in life, what would they be?

If you were to rank life's most important tasks, what would the list look like?

If you were given a chance to get answers to your ten most important questions, what would you ask?

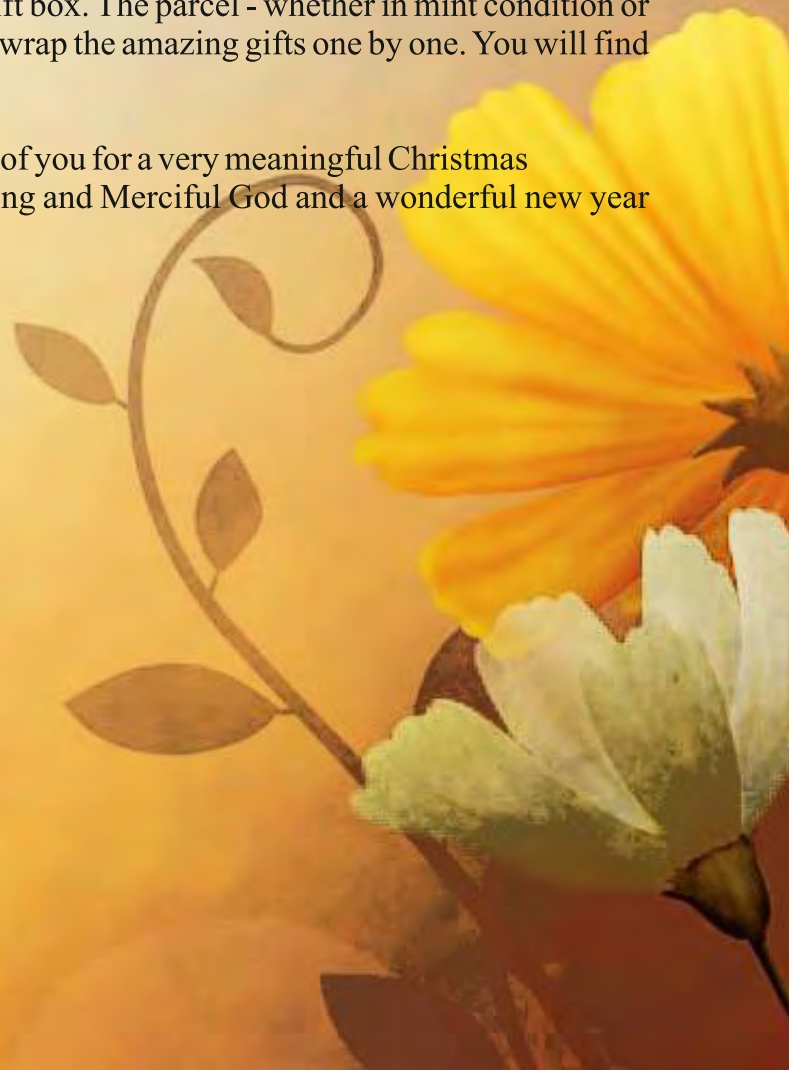
If you need a blueprint to live life to the full, where would you look?

Do you have a moment - to pause, to look at the things that matter most, to talk of the things that you have most at heart?

You know as well as I do the thrill of opening a gift box. The parcel - whether in mint condition or damaged in the mail - is life itself. Open it and unwrap the amazing gifts one by one. You will find your name on each.

My loving and affectionate greetings to each one of you for a very meaningful Christmas Celebrations and, many blessings from our Loving and Merciful God and a wonderful new year of Peace and Joy.

Your affectionate Father and Friend,  
Fr. Mathew Pulingathil SDB  
Rector, Salesian College Siliguri





# Friendly Cricket Match

Sayak Moitra  
Treasurer

Salesian College Siliguri Alumni Association

Sunday, 22nd November 2015 the Alumni Association in collaboration with Salesian College Sports Association organized a friendly cricket match in the campus. The field of Salesian College was drenched with dew drops of the early winter morning but the chill could not reduce the enthusiasm of the teams.

It was a match of 16 overs each with deuce ball. Match started at 8.00 AM with the toss which the Alumni team won and was selected for first bating. Shivraj Thami and Ajit Singh were the captains of the Alumni and College teams respectively. There were three umpires hired from outside.

Fr. George Thadathil the Principal, Mr. Pawan Prasad the Coordinator of the College Cricket Team, Ms. Priyamrita Chatterjee the Alumni Coordinator, Mr. Chanchal Agarwal the President of Alumni Association, Mr. Sayak Moitra the Treasurer, along with other students and Alumni members were present during the match. It was a great enjoyment to witness the match and cheer both the teams.

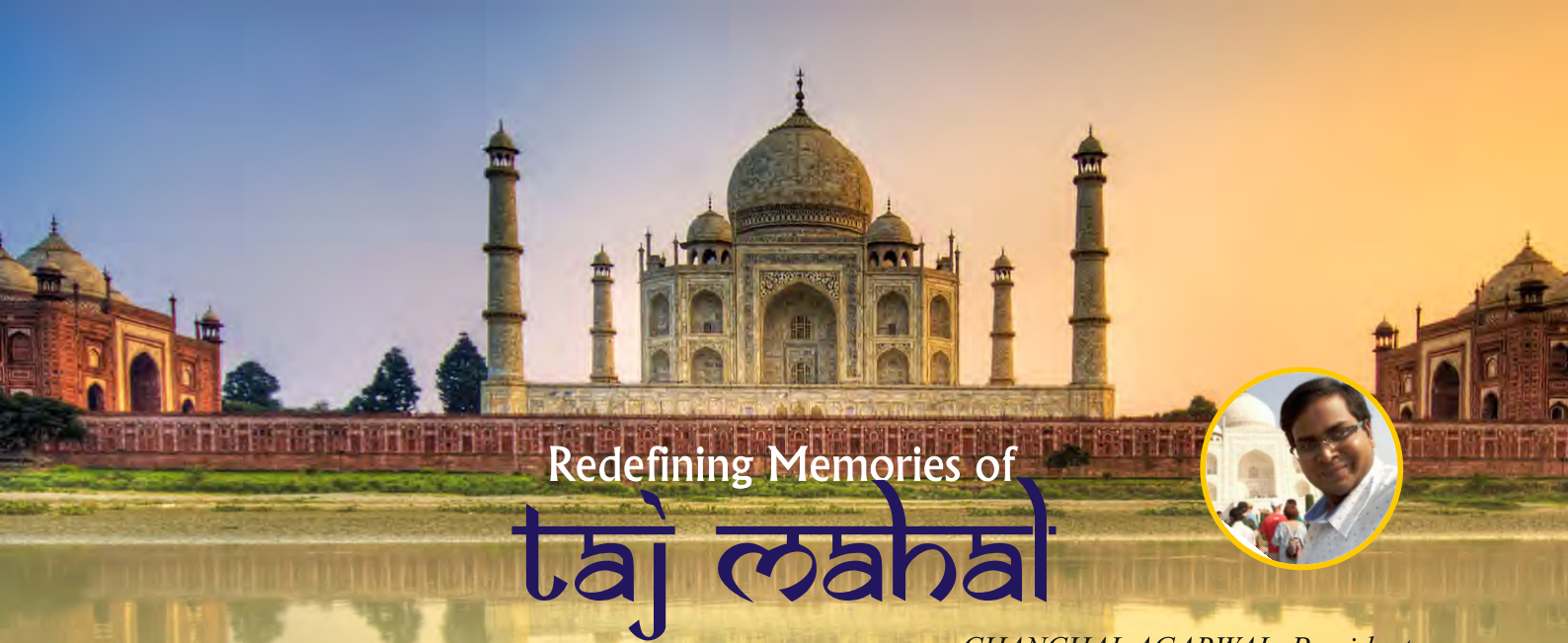
By almost 11.00 AM the match got over. Salesian College Sports Association was the winner of the match and Alumni Association was the runner's up. Umang Gupta was the Man of the match. Fr. George Thadathil, distributed the trophies. He encouraged both the teams and congratulated the winners. He also specially thanked the Alumni team for taking such initiative to organize the match to create a bond between Alumni and present students.

The event was concluded with tea and snacks for everyone present.

It was a good and cheerful time for all and everyone was happy to be a part of this day.







# Redefining Memories of Taj Mahal



*CHANCHAL AGARWAL, President  
Salesian College Alumni Association*



My decision to visit Taj Mahal was back in my mind when I planned up a trip to my one of best friend's place in Chandigarh. Yes a week out of Siliguri, I was going to Tony's house in the City Beautiful. We always had great fun whenever we went for outings during our college days. Visiting Taj Mahal had always been in my mind.

After visiting the beautiful spots in Chandigarh, we headed to Delhi on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to visit Agra. Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup>

October early morning we left for Agra from New Delhi Railway Station by Bhopal Shatabdi Express, within two hours we reached Agra Station. A place filled with tourists and visitors from across the globe. We were very excited to see Taj as till now we only heard and have seen its beauty in movies, posters and magazines. From Agra station, Taj Mahal is just a few kilometers away. Since Taj Mahal is a very famous and popular tourist spot, so the chance of getting ripped off is extremely high. From the self-proclaimed guides to cabbies, from the auto drivers to the vendors, every one of them tries to get maximum benefit from the tourist.



We were very keen to get a glimpse of the Taj and we were strange to see the crowd so early in the morning. After visiting the Mughal Garden, finally we reached to one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal, the pure white marble structure constructed by the emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his third and favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The view was indeed mesmerizing. Although we had seen pictures of the Taj before, but certainly we had no idea r how big the imposing structure was. No wonder it's known as the biggest proof of love in the world. Inside the Taj Mahal, Shah Jahan's tomb is placed beside his wife's. His tomb is bigger than his wife's and the only part of the complex that is not symmetric. Photography is not allowed inside, but to be honest the outer view is more charming and impressive. There are a lot of souvenir shops; we bought a marble model of Taj Mahal as a token of memory. While going back we were not being able to resist ourselves from looking back to have a last glimpse of that splendid monument. After Taj Mahal, we visited The Agra Fort which is a UNESCO World Heritage site located in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India. It is about 2.5 km northwest of Taj Mahal. The fort can be more accurately described as a walled city.



However, visiting Agra on my week long trip was the most memorable part and in company of my best friend made the time worth living and memorable.





*Those were  
the best days  
of my life...!!!*

*- Tony Thomas*

*2014 batch of Salesian College Siliguri Campus*



I still remember those days, the early days of my college life. Yes I am taking this platform to share my experience and if you have come across a lot of them then please do share. I won't term it different but yes worth knowing. There were a million thoughts racing through my mind as I was journeying towards my college. The thought of leaving my comfort zone that is, my loving parents, my friends, my home and my city, beautiful Chandigarh. This was probably the first time I actually had to stay miles away from everything and everyone I held dear. Having all such thoughts and mixed feelings, I was heading to a place I just knew on the map but later on turned as a beautiful world for me. Life is full of surprises I believe.

The initial days of my college life was tough. Most of the time answering the question "Why have you come from so far to study here?" Well I would love to answer it now. I was there for a reason. The independence made me realize the value of the things which I used to ignore before. The independence also paved way for thorough introspection. It enabled me to improve the quality of my life.

There is a saying, Old habits, die hard. This applies in my life too. I was so used to the spoon-feeding strategies of our school teachers that I found it really hard to study on my own. Gradually, I learnt the art of studying by myself. Group studies were an integral part of my college life which was also a great form of stress buster, I must say. We studied and had fun at the same time. Those were indeed memorable moments. The 'Paglazz formation' we term it!!

In this journey, I came across a lot of people, people who were by my side through all the thick and thin. They were always there to support and encourage me. Some extracted my talents and honed them, while some others extended their shoulders to cry on. I was indeed blessed with wonderful teachers and friends. I got a chance to realize my potential and work on it. I started to see things from different perspective. The storms did come, but they made me stronger. By the end of my final year, I was a changed person.

My college life was a rollercoaster ride. I experienced the highs and the lows, but both taught me lessons of life. I cherished each and every moment spent in my college and not to forget, made wonderful friends. It gave me lasting memories. Today when I sit so far from all of you, each member of the Salesian family is close to me, even if I don't know you. I love this life because it gifted me Siliguri. I love my college, I love my principal, I love my teachers, I love my friends, I love my seniors and juniors, I love every bit of what this place has given me. Waiting to visit the campus again.

Today when I think of those days spent in Salesian College Siliguri Campus it creates a smile on my face and I happily say to myself – My second home is not so far!!!







# Virtues in the Garden of Life

*Ms. Deepika Chettri,  
Alumni of Salesian College Sonada  
Batch (2002-2005)*

World is a beautiful garden where we all are the beautiful flowers. Today this garden seems to become barren, lifeless and lose its fragrance and glory. It is threatened by hatred, anxiety and is often without peace. This is probably because we have lost the divinity within ourselves and we have forgotten our main virtues and qualities to nourish this garden. Therefore, now is the time to awaken our consciousness by recognising our innate virtues. So that we can bring back the glory in the garden and live a happy, healthy, wealthy and wise life again. Love, peace, happiness, bliss, purity, knowledge and power - these are the seven virtues we are made up of and through these we can make every moment of our life in the world that of being in the beautiful garden once again.

**LOVE:** Love and you will be loved. It is the most positive and pure feeling existing. Everything that we understand, we understand because we love.

**PEACE:** Peace is the goal of all of us. Peace begins within ourselves and is the inner state of wellbeing and calm.

**HAPPINESS:** Happiness is the real essence. Happiness is the real joy in every moment of life.

**BLISS:** Bliss is the highest degree of happiness, joy and blessedness. We experience heavenly feelings in this state of mind.

**PURITY:** Purity is the greatest gift. Purity of thoughts, words and actions brings clarity and transparency in everything we do.

**KNOWLEDGE:** Knowledge is power. True knowledge is the enlightenment of mind.

**POWER:** Power is the result of experiencing all the virtues in its true form. Being powerful we can rule our mind and use intellect in the right way.

It is very important to recognize and inculcate these seven virtues and sow the seed of love, happiness, peace, bliss, purity, knowledge and power in the Garden of life. When these will grow and bloom eternally the life will be a treasure it will become worth living and a beautiful GARDEN.



# From the Campus

## Spot light Cosmic Creation 2015

On 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015 Salesian College Sonada had participated in the inter college meet “Spot light Cosmic Creation 2015” organized by Telegraph T2 in which 24 colleges participated. Out of 14 college bands Salesian band members were able to clinch the third place.

## Workshop on open source

Department of BCA had organized workshop on open source at Salesian college Sonada in collaboration with Computer society of India. Inaugural speech was delivered by Fr Babu Joseph SDB. Followed by lighting of the lamp. There were two resource persons for the workshop, Mr. A.Roy and Mr. M.Mondal.

First session was theory based specifying advantages and features of open source. Various open source softwares and development processes were discussed. Second session included practical based features and development with on spot training to the students.

The workshop was a grand success as many students from different colleges participated.

## Poetry competition

Xavier Board of Higher Education (XBHE) East & Northeast Region held a “Poetry Contest 2015” on the theme, “It's I. Do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27). A Panel of six judges from India and England judged the entries. Mahima Kashyap of Salesian College Siliguri secured third position among seven institutions over 20 who participated in the event.

## Congratulations

**Our heartiest Congratulations to Alumni Birender Ekka and his wife for having a daughter on 22 November 2015.**

**Our best wishes for Alumni Mr. Roshan D. Lama and Mrs. Dipti Sharma for completing 5th year of their marriage on 10 December, 2015**

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